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SALT LAKE CITY, MAY 22, 1906

## THE OGDEN CALAMITY.

The big fire in Ogden city, particulars of which are given in this issue of the Deseret News, is a great calamity. The financial loss is not so large as at first reported, but it is of huge proportions for a town of the size of the Junction city, and the insurance on the burned property appears to be much less than its value. Then there is the hindrance to business that results from the conflagration, and incidental losses that insurance does not cover. Therefore the occurrence is a calamity, not only to the firms and individuals who have suffered, but to the public generally. We condole with our friends who are hit hard by the catastrophe, and hope they will be able soon to rebuild their destroyed establishments and start anew on the road to prosperity. Some of the framed structures that went up in flame will probably be replaced by more substantial buildings, adding to the good appearance of the principal business street in Ogden. We expect to see that much good come out of the evils of the fire and also to witness another exhibition of that courage, fortitude and enterprise that have characterized the lives of men of Ogden in former trials and disasters. Give aid to the distress in their affliction, and encourage the well-to-do in their efforts to retrieve their losses. Success to them all!

## EQUAL SUFFRAGE IN ENGLAND.

The equal suffrage question has been agitating political circles in England lately, and according to the press dispatches from London, a large delegation of women waited upon the British Premier, Campbell-Bannerman, at the foreign office and clamored for legislation granting the suffrage to their sex. They represented organizations from different parts of the British Isles, and eight of their number were permitted each to speak for five minutes. They made the usual arguments in favor of equal suffrage, which were not disputed. About forty members of parliament accompanied the four hundred ladies who composed the delegation, but did not take active part in the interview. Immediate legislation was demanded by the speakers, one of whom announced that the women of their societies were prepared to sacrifice their lives in behalf of their cause. It appears that the body of the delegation was made up of women of all classes in the social order, from countesses and other ladies of title, to factory women and other wage-workers.

The Premier seemed to take the appeal in a good-natured, but not very serious manner. He intimated that he was personally favorable to their cause, but did not think that any immediate change in their direction would be made in the election laws. When he announced that perhaps in a few years they would obtain the right to vote, he was hissed for the incautious remark. He pointed to the strides that had been made of late years in the direction of woman suffrage, as an indication of what would probably be accomplished in the future. He was evidently diplomatic in his remarks, perceiving that it would not be wise to take direct issue with such a body, and at the same time that he could not fairly make any definite promises as to the probable action of Parliament in that direction.

It takes time to wear away the prejudice which exists against giving women the right to vote on the affairs of the nation, but we believe that the British Premier was right in his intimation that the women of England would ultimately obtain the boon which they demanded. The cause of woman suffrage, on either side of the Atlantic, has been to some extent retarded by the extreme course taken by a few very prominent lady advocates. They are so strenuous in their methods that they excite, instead of allaying, that strong prejudice which stands between nearly all old customs and the innovations that reformers endeavor to introduce. We regard it as a mistake when they level their "demands" at the authorities of the state or nation which they desire to bring to terms. If they were a little more placatory, we believe it would answer a better purpose.

The elective franchise, as has been frequently explained in these columns, is regarded in political circles as a privilege and not an inherent right. Citizenship and suffrage are not the same. While a person is not entitled to the elective franchise who is not a citizen, it does not follow that every citizen holds the franchise. The right to vote is regulated by law, and differs in various nations and states. The ladies who demand equal rights with men in political affairs, in most instances fail to recognize this distinction. Therefore "demands" made in a belligerent and sometimes offensive spirit, hinder instead of hastening the movement which they agitate.

The declaration of the ladies who waited upon the British Premier that they were "willing to sacrifice their lives in behalf of their demands" was unnecessary and conveyed no force in the desired direction. "Laying down their lives" is a very unlikely occurrence, and would not aid them or their sex in reaching the goal of their exertions. Their efforts would be better

directed in the conversation of the hosts of their own sex who are opposed to voting by women, and the many influential political leaders who are equally prejudiced against the measure.

"Demands" will not count. Extreme declarations will be regarded as exclusives. The good, sound arguments that can be put forward in favor of equal suffrage, most of which are really unanswerable by reason, sound logic or political necessity, will win their way in time, and as Premier Campbell-Bannerman said, patience will have to be exercised, and work will have to be done. Impatience, covert or open threats, wild declarations and every intemperate and forceful measure on the part of the advocates of the change, will not only fail to the ground, but will do harm instead of good.

We do not know of any injury to the country or the community where equal suffrage has been adopted that has followed its institution. Certainly it has done no perceptible harm in Utah, and the same may be said and has been expressed repeatedly in regard to Wyoming and Colorado and Idaho. The ladies in this country have failed to accomplish their purpose in obtaining Congressional legislation, providing for woman suffrage. This was quite proper, because each State has a constitutional right to provide the qualifications for the exercise of the elective franchise.

It required an amendment to the National Constitution to establish the right of colored citizens to vote. It was adopted at a time when the Negro question was before the country in such a shape that protection was deemed necessary to the emancipated slaves, and the maintenance of their liberties procured for them by the sacrifice of much blood and treasure. If the movement for the adoption of the constitutional amendment had been delayed for any great length of time, it is doubtful if it would ever have obtained the necessary support. Be that as it may, it is a fact that an amendment to the national constitution was absolutely necessary before the right of suffrage could be conferred upon the colored men by Congress, should be sufficient to show the ladies of the land that a constitutional amendment would be also necessary before Congress could take any action in their case.

The term States' Rights has become rather obnoxious to some extreme partisans, but the principle, within certain prescribed bounds, is fundamental to our form of government. This has been recognized repeatedly by the Supreme Court of the United States and coincided in by judges belonging to each of the great political parties. One of those rights is that of prescribing the qualifications of voters. It has not been abrogated or changed by the great conflict between the North and the South. Each State of the Union is sovereign within its own limits, and has the sole power of legislation concerning matters that affect it as an autonomy. The national government has power in all the States to the extent expressed in and limited by the national Constitution. This is one of the essential principles of the system established in this Republic, and the distinction must be maintained and will be by every true lover of his country.

It is different in the British empire. Parliament has control of the suffrage question, and can change or modify the laws in relation to it, as they affect all parts of the nation. They have been gradually altered in the direction of extended liberty at a rapid rate, and are approaching the point of universal male suffrage that has been attained in this country. When it fully arrives there, justice, reason and we hope public policy, will include women citizens within the provisions of the law, and establish that equality which belongs to all mankind of both sexes, and should be recognized without distinction of sex or property. Let the ladies of Great Britain continue their work in a proper spirit, and they will some day achieve a glorious victory.

## WILL NOT SEE THEM.

The czar refuses to see the representatives of the Duma, charged with the mission of presenting to him the views of that body concerning the needs of the country. That does not necessarily imply that his purpose is to oppose the measures suggested. It may be merely a question of etiquette. The representatives of the people may not, according to the autocrat's code of manners, be permitted to present their demands except through the regular channel, in this case one of the ministers of the court.

The czar has on several critical occasions refused to receive deputations. He closed the doors to the delegates of the Finns, though impetuously by prominent men both in Russia and other countries to grant them a hearing. He also refused to hear the complaints of the delegation led by Father Gapon, and had a number of these kind-hearted, trusting supplicants for imperial favors, shot down in the street, by his soldiers, thus inviting revolution and riot. It is, we presume, a question of etiquette with the czar. The people must not presume to approach too near the dizzy heights from which issue the commands of autocracy.

But the Russian ruler may have to amend his code of manners. His subjects have been aroused to activity, and they know not the niceties of court life. It is claimed by students of Russian conditions that if the Duma is, for any reason, made impotent, terrible risings will ensue all over the country. Is it possible that the czar fails to read the signs of the time? Can he forget the lessons of the French revolution?

The demands of the duma are not radical. The influence of the moderate delegates is clearly perceptible in the address to the throne. The representatives of the people ask for amnesty for political offenders. The jails are full of such. Some of them are charged with distributing revolutionary pamphlets; others with possessing secret printing presses, and still others with conspiring to overthrow the monarchy. Many are not accused of anything at all, but others are imprisoned simply because the authorities think it good that they should be nowhere else. All of these prisoners are friends of the majority of the members of the Duma, many of whom have been in jail for political offenses themselves. Without some measure of relief from the conditions that fill the jails with political prisoners, there can be no real progress. Agrarian reforms are also absolutely

necessary. The farmers are, in many instances, no better than slaves. They want a redistribution of the land, and even demand a division of the big estates belonging to the crown and the church. The difficulty in meeting this demand in any way satisfactorily, is admitted by all parties, but nothing is gained by evasion of the problem.

The full program of the Constitutional Democrats is given as follows:

"Government by the czar in co-operation with the elected representatives of the nation; that is, that the czar could in religion or wait Whitman in literature. The fact that an institution exists is to the minds of such men as these reason enough for attacking it; and if it has existed for a long time the reason is generally sound; for most human institutions become corrupt in the course of time and the world is preserved from putrescence only by criticism and rebellion. Carl Schurz commenced as a rebel in 1848, taking part in the general European struggle with despotic rule, and the domination of Austrian influence and started the human race again upon that march toward democracy which began with the French Revolution and which the fall of Napoleon has checked for more than a quarter of a century.

"Universal suffrage and direct elections of members of the Duma; the equality of all before the law, irrespective of religion, nationality, or race; control by the Duma of government income and expenditure; just and adequate grants of land to the peasantry; protection of labor and employees by legislative legislation; the right of the various nationalities in the Empire to control and settle their local affairs under proper central control and on condition that imperial unity be preserved; Equality, freedom, and the reign of law."

Developments are now watched with intense interest. The Constitutional Democrats are doing all in their power to control the situation in the interest of calm, deliberate and dignified action. But the party itself is composed of various elements. It is made up of different shades of radicals, and no one can tell by what combination of circumstances the conservative element may become powerless to control the revolutionary forces. If the czar sacrifices his chances of becoming in reality the "little father" of the people, he must be entirely unaware of the opportunities that all the rest of the world can see within his reach.

One of the hardest things in the world is to explain just how a defeat occurred.

Kansas City's cry for a cleaner city has been answered by the opening of free public baths.

Voliva is going in for economy and after Dowle at the same time. Will he make a go of it?

It has never been definitely determined whether the weather man precedes or follows the weather.

Bishop Fellows tells ministers to study the newspapers. And he should have added, "Pay in advance."

"A day of sorrow is longer than a month of joy," says a Chinese proverb. Even longer than the twenty-first of June.

A few more such weeks as last and the senate will become known as the dark and bloody legislative battle ground.

Andrew Carnegie says that he is an "individualist." From the size of his fortune people thought he was a "collecionist."

Mayor Schmitz has shown the people of San Francisco and the nation that a musician can be a man when the times call for a man.

"Football lives at Harvard for another year," says the Boston Herald. But how about the footballists? Will they live another year?

"As a humble citizen with inalienable rights, I insist upon a halt," declares Chancellor Day of Syracuse. Why not halt and be done with it?

The state printer of Kansas says, "You can't fool the people of Kansas." He himself is only fooling them when he gives them that kind of talk. They like taffy.

The czar reversed things when he threw a bomb into the parliamentary camp by refusing to receive a deputation from the lower house. Turn about is fair play.

Uncle Sam is said to be preparing for trouble on the Isthmus of Panama. He probably will not be disappointed as the little republic is always prompt with its promised troubles.

Senator Burrows, too, seems to have been invited out to a swell dinner, for he was too ill to attend yesterday's meeting of the Senate elections committee. "Ptomaine poisoning?"

Should the rumor that General Stoessel and Admiral Nebogoff have been condemned to death prove true, and the sentence be carried out, it would be a disgrace to the czar's government, unworthy even of a barbarian.

By refusing to receive their reply to the speech from the throne at Peterhof, the czar has taught the members of the lower house of the Russian parliament a lesson in parliamentary government. They evidently had forgotten their new status.

"It will be a greater disaster to San Francisco than earthquake and fire if civil stupidity and anarchistic individual greed should conspire to defeat the carrying out of the Burnham plan for wider streets, open spaces, and the building of a more beautiful San Francisco," says the Oakland Inquirer. Isn't that putting the case rather strong, stronger than it can possibly be?

## CARL SCHURZ.

Pueblo Chieftain.

The career of such a man as Carl Schurz is a good example of the loss that has come to those European nations which have driven out some of their wisest, bravest and most self-sacrificing citizens because of their inability to conform to certain established standards of politics or of creed, and, on the other hand, an illustration of the benefit that has come to our own republic as a result of its policy of welcoming and giving freest latitude to individual differences of opinion, subject only to the necessary restrictions that safeguard our social institutions and our public morals.

Chicago Record-Herald.  
Opinions have differed about his course as an independent in politics. Some have regarded it as proof of consistency, others as proof of inconsistency and self-seeking. Its effect unquestionably was to cut him off from constructive work for many years because he had no place in any party. Our system being what it is, this is not the way of practical politics or practical statesmanship. It was hard-

ly the way of utilizing such powers as Mr. Schurz possessed to the fullest extent. But his rare gifts were never more strikingly shown than in the great debates of 1896, when the whole country was impressed by the knowledge, acuteness and logic displayed in the discussion of the money question.

Portland Oregonian.  
Many men are born to be slaves; a few to be masters, and now and then one whose inmost nature makes him a rebel. Carl Schurz could no more submit to the shackles of despotic authority in politics than the Voltaire could in religion or wait Whitman in literature. The fact that an institution exists is to the minds of such men as these reason enough for attacking it; and if it has existed for a long time the reason is generally sound; for most human institutions become corrupt in the course of time and the world is preserved from putrescence only by criticism and rebellion. Carl Schurz commenced as a rebel in 1848, taking part in the general European struggle with despotic rule, and the domination of Austrian influence and started the human race again upon that march toward democracy which began with the French Revolution and which the fall of Napoleon has checked for more than a quarter of a century.

Kansas City Star.  
The religious love of country, which is inherent in the German heart and soul, found in Carl Schurz abundant and perpetual manifestation, and all of this temperamental devotion which he brought with him from the land of his birth was lavished unceasingly on the land of his adoption.

Los Angeles Times.  
Peace to the dead man's soul, and may God rest him now, after life's fitful fever! And, as he is laid away in the silent grave, with the banner of the stars wrapped round his pulseless breast, let us remember that Carl Schurz was a true lover of the land that he often offered his life to save.

JUST FOR FUN.

Office Boys Dabble in Wall Street.

New York Sun.  
As the pages in the Senate sometimes hold an extra session all by themselves so the office boys in Wall street conduct a lively market at times after the brokers have gone home. They call up a number at random, it is answered by another office, and a conversation something like the following ensues: "Hello! This is Mr. Jones of Buff. Bang & Bung's. Kindly buy me 14,000, 000,000 shares of Amalgamated Copper immediately."

"All right. This is Mr. Smith, of Hop. Skip & Jump. But we will need more margin for that. Kindly send us a certified check for one billion dollars."

A wordy argument ensues, and the office boys finally hang up the phones and go home content with the day's transactions.

Little Ethel's Progress.  
There is a great load off little Ethel's mind. She has just finished the present that she gave to her mother a year ago last Christmas.—Somerville Journal.

The Life Line.  
Bill—I see Italy is about to begin the construction of a telephone service in Alpine altitudes for the use of climbers who need assistance.

Jul—But what's the use? The line may be busy!—Yonkers Statesman.

Lives of Great Men.  
Superlative fame is where a man has not only forced his name into every body's mouth but has kept it there until the first-class newspapers are spelling it the same way every time they mention it.—Puck.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The May Indoors and Out is chiefly devoted to country houses and their gardens. "Of What Material Shall the House be Built?" is the title of a series of articles in which practical architects discuss the advantages of building with wood, brick, rough-cast and stone. "A Small Garden in a Village," "The Decorative Value of Vines," "The Delights of Water Gardening," are papers full of useful suggestion to workers in gardens. The beautiful illustrations captivate even the casual reader.—Rogers and Wise Co., Boston.

The solemnity and marvelous coloring of a Jerusalem sunset are exquisitely reproduced in the June Century, from studies in oil by Corwin Knapp Johnson. There is an account, by Wladyslaw T. Bondar, of "Tatra," a mountainous region between Galicia and Hungary. There are word and picture memories of the charming river Marne from its source to Paris, by Marie Perle. Pennell and Joseph Pennell. Harry Stillwell Edwards, author of "The Two Runaways," writes of "The Negro and the South," an optimistic, and, for a Southerner, an unusual, view of the black man in America. Another of Camille Gronkowsky's papers on the historic palaces of Paris deals with the Elisee Palace, the official home of the French President; and Ernst von Hesse Wartegg describes with interesting detail the wonderful Alpine trolley partly completed to the Jungfrau peak. In this number also begins the new serial by Anne Warner, creator of the Inimitable Susan Clegg. A strong feature of the number is the story of "The American Hero of Kimberley" (George P. Labram, of Detroit), by T. J. Gordon Gardner. A presentation of "The Spelling Problem" and the present aims of the reformers by Dr. Benjamin E. Smith is of much interest.—New York.

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